of Functional Directors were vacant in the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) for more than three years as on 28.2.2002.

(b) The Board of Directors as a whole is responsible for the efficient operation of a PSU. In case of vacancies of Chief Executives/ Directors, officiating arrangements are made by the administrative Ministries/Departments to maintain managerial functions and efficiency of the Company.

(c) Out of the seven posts, four are kept in abeyance, in two cases deputation is being considered and in one case a Search Committee has been set up to make the selection. Filling up of vacant Board level posts is a continuous process and is done in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

Assistance to NGOs promoting voluntary action for disabled in Gujarat

*497. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the NGOs working on the Scheme to promote voluntary action for persons with disabilities in Gujarat;

(b) the assistance extended to such organizations since operation of the scheme; and

(c) the progress made, till date?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) 25 Non-Governmental Organizations have been assisted since the inception of the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities in Gujarat. An amount of Rs. 315.71 lacs has been released as grant-in-aid to these organizations under this Scheme in the last three years.

(c) The Scheme has been helpful in providing facilities of education, training and rehabilitation services to the disabled in the State. Around 90,000 persons have benefited under the programmes funded under this Scheme during the last three years.

Legislation on assisted reproductive technique

*498. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to